(c) The Central Electrical Authority have accorded techno-economic approval to the Talcher Super Thermal Power Project (2x500 MW) proposed to be set up in the Central Sector at an estimated total cost of Rs. 1130 crores. This project can be considered for an investment decision after the environment and forest clearance been obtained, the coal linkage has been established clearance and the funding pattern has been determined.

Subsidence in coal belts near Asansol

732. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been a number of cases of subsidence in the Coal near Asansol;

(b) if so, how many such cases were noticed recently.

(c) whether it is a fact that areas where such incidents took place belonged to the Eastern Coal Field Ltd; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such occurrances in future.

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (d) During the last one year only few instances of surface subsidence or formation of pot holes in isolated spots over the old abondoned in-accessible water logged workings have occured. Such subsidences have taken place both in the areas belonging to ECL and areas not under ECL. However, such cases are attributable to unscientific mining operation carried out prior to nationalisation of coal mines. Steps taken to control subsidence are as follows:

(i) Mining operations are carried out in conformity with the rules and regulations and strictly as per conditions imposed by the D.G.M.S.,

(ii) Extraction below built in areas is done only in conjunction with stowing;

(iii) Restricted working/extraction in case of workings under shallow cover,

(iv) Prohibition of construction activities over areas declared unsafe for habitation.

Payment of pension

733. SHRI M. KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1036 given in the Rajya Sabha on the fifth May, 1986 and state:

(a) whether the erstwhile Burmah Shell Limited which deducted the contribution towards the Provident Fund and Gratuity, had provided funds to the Burmah Shell pension Fund now being operated by Bharat Petroleum Corpodation Co. Limited;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof. and

(c) by when the arrears are likely to be paid to pensioners who superannuated from 1st July, 1961 to 30th April, 1973?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: (a) and (b) Burmah Shell had paid to the employes concerned Provident Fund and Gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act as stipulated without making any deduction. As regards computation of pension under the Trust Fund separately created for the purpose the pension was to be calculated on the basis of a formula evolved which envisaged that to the extent the Company had made contributions to the Provident Fund, there would be a deduction at the rate of 4 per cent annum from basic pension as laid